

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Paul Bruce.

WHEREAS, it is with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Mr. Paul Bruce, a distinguished public servant and champion of county government; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late John B. and Minnie Anderson Bruce, Mr. Bruce was a native of Hamblen County, the county which he proudly and effectively served as County Executive for seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, this esteemed Tennessean served his state and nation valiantly during the Korean Conflict while in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bruce received his Bachelor of Science degree from Carson-Newman College in 1959, following his four-year term in the military; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bruce had a long and illustrious career as a public accountant, working for thirty-three years in the same office and recently working part-time for the office of David Noble; and

WHEREAS, Paul Bruce had a love of politics that spanned more than three decades and included chairing the local Democratic Party, holding several district offices within the First Congressional District, and serving on the State Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, even with his Democratic Party ties, Paul Bruce will forever be remembered as a great servant of all people, regardless of their party or politics; and

WHEREAS, touted as “one of Hamblen County’s most effective leaders”, Mr. Bruce became County Executive in 1978 and remained in that position until his untimely death; and

WHEREAS, Paul Bruce leaves behind a long legacy of efficient government and sound financial management in Hamblen County and he leaves his mark on hundreds of worthy causes and projects in the area; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding citizen and exemplary public servant worked diligently and patiently to secure the East Tennessee Agriculture Resource Park, a complicated project for which Mr. Bruce effectively coordinated the activities of several Upper East Tennessee counties and state government; and

WHEREAS, for many years Mr. Bruce served the interests of good and proficient government, and two projects of which Mr. Bruce was most proud involved the implementation of county-wide garbage pickup and recycling and the creation of the Hamblen/Morristown Solid Waste Disposal Board; and

WHEREAS, ever one to shoulder the mantle of professional responsibility and public service, Mr. Bruce served with distinction on the Hamblen County Planning Commission, the United Way Budget Committee, the Morristown Area Chamber Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Industrial Board; and

WHEREAS, his dedication and devotion to the Morristown and Hamblen County area seemed virtually endless, as he was a member and former secretary/treasurer of the Morristown Lions Club and an active participant and advocate of the Jobs Training Partnership Act program; and

WHEREAS, colleagues and friends describe Paul Bruce as an “able administrator”, “mentor”, and “gentleman”, and lament that the true extent of his efforts may never be fully realized because of one of his most endearing qualities: modesty; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bruce is survived by his loving wife, the former Gayle Hartman; one daughter, Paula Bruce Combs; two sons, John Richard “Ricky” Bruce and Ronald Powell; and one granddaughter, Erica; and

WHEREAS, although Paul Bruce has relinquished this life for a far better existence, the legacy of his diligence and effectiveness as a community leader, tempered with kindness,

fairness and integrity, will live forever in the hearts and minds of all who knew him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we express our deepest regret at the death of one of Tennessee's finest citizens, Mr. Paul Bruce, while also celebrating the life of this man whose many successes and selfless contributions will be remembered for years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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